THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) In terms of Section 6(1) of the NREG Act, Central Government may, by Notification, specify the wage rates for the purpose of this Act. Different rates of wages may be specified for different areas. However, the wage rates specified by the Central Government cannot be less than Rs. 60 per day. The Act further provides that till such time a wage rate is fixed by the Central Government in respect of any area in a State, the minimum wage fixed by the State Government under section 3 of the Minimum Wates Act, 1948 for agricultural laborers shall be considered as the wage rate applicable to that area. Central Government has so far not fixed any wage rate in respect of any of the States. At present the Wage Rates fixed by the respective State Government is therefore applicable in the States which is different in each State. The wage rate is fixed by State Government based on the productivity norms. These productivity norms are also fixed by the States themselves. Payment of wages is based on the rates on the rates and norms fixed by the States.

(c) Guidelines issued by this Ministry aurhorize the State Governments to get scientific time and motion studies done to determine the nroms of task so as to ensure that a person normally working for seven hours gets wages equal to wage rate fixed.

(d) No. Sir.

Employment Guarantee Council under NREGA

†2865. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of States which have set up State level Employment Guarantee Councils as per the guidelines of the NREGA;

(b) the mechanism for proper execution of the schemes under NREGA in some scheduled areas where the Panchayat system does not exist; and

(c) the Government's steps, if any, to develop new functional mechanism in such areas to ensure proper implementation of the programme?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) Eight States, namely, Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh and Tripura have set up State level Employment Guarantee Councils as per the provisions of NREG Act.

(b) and (c) As per Guidelines under NREG Act, in areas where Panchayat system does not exist local Councils/authorities as mandated by the State concerned will be invested with corresponding responsidbilities of Panchayats.

Funds for Rural Development schemes of Bihar

†2866. SHRI MAHENDRA SAHNI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount released by the Ministry of Rural Development for various schemes of Bihar for the year 2006-07.

(b) whether there is any provision in National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme to give employment to educated unemployed persons;

(c) if so, in what manner; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) The amount released by the Ministry of Rural Development to the Government of Bihar for implementation of various rural development schemes during 2006-07 (upto August, 2006) is Rs. 1472.79 crore.

(b) to (d) The guidelines of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act mentions that employment upto 100 days in a financial year will be provided to every rural household whose adult member volunteers to do unskilled manual work irrespective of educational qualification.

Non-Implementation of NREGA

2867. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.